

R&D Scoping and Framing Workshop  
*R&D Roadmap: Managing Western Water as Climate Changes*  
February 20 and 21, 2008

Responsibilities, Challenges, and Needs  
Perspectives of Reclamation Environmental Compliance and Ecosystem Restoration Managers

Note: The information presented herein is intended solely to facilitate a working level dialogue between the federal scientific community, and Reclamation water and environmental resource managers, on climate change research needs in support of Western water management. As such, *“this information has not been formally disseminated by the Bureau of Reclamation and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy”*.<sup>(1)</sup>

Generally describe your region’s environmental compliance and ecosystem restoration responsibilities (*this is meant to be a high level summary of your world*):

**I work for Reclamation’s Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance and we are responsible for internal Reclamation policy and guidance as it relates to environmental compliance including but not limited to NEPA, ESA and Clean Water Act.**

Describe the decisions that your region makes associated with environmental compliance and restoration responsibilities that may be affected by climate change:

**We have developed preliminary draft internal guidance on options that are available to Reclamation to ensure compliance with the above referenced environmental laws as it relates to climate change.**

What are the primary scientific or non-scientific factors that typically govern these decisions?

**Scientific factors are the knowledge base that exists on climate change effects to the environment, including endangered species on a Regional or local landscape – not just globally. Non-scientific are litigation pressures from outside groups.**

Who are the primary stakeholders affected by these decisions and summarize their primary concerns?

**Internally, it would be our Area and Regional Office environmental staff and how (and to what extent) they should address climate change in NEPA, ESA and planning documents. Externally, would be our customers and perhaps environmental groups that would want to ensure we are adequately addressing climate change issues.**

In general, list the top three wishes that you would like for the scientific community to provide for you, in support of your region’s environmental compliance and ecosystem restoration responsibilities that are related to understanding and utilizing climate change information.

- 1. Local or regional projections (17 western states) of climate change on ecosystems, especially Federal listed endangered and threatened species and their habitats.**

<sup>1/</sup> Stated in accordance with Information Quality Act (Public Law 106-554), Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (Office of Management and Budget, December 16, 2004).

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2. **Local and regional effects (17 western states) of climate change on water supplies and associated landscapes.**
  
3. **Local and regional effects (17 western states) of climate change on all aspects of the human environment (ie. in the NEPA context).**

Are there current or emerging “*project-specific applications*” in your region where answers to these three wishes may be beneficial to you in the near-term?

N/A

1/ Stated in accordance with Information Quality Act (Public Law 106-554), Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (Office of Management and Budget, December 16, 2004).